Ecological Imbalances in Gangotri Area

*303. DR. R. SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey recently about the ecological imbalances in the Gangotri are in the Himalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the glaciers of the Himalayas are changing trends;

(d) if so, the details thereof including their impact; and

(e) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Governent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). The Gangotri glacier has been under study from time to time by Geological survey of India (GSI) since 1935. The glacier has been showing a persistent recessional trend. It has vacated an area of 0.243 sq. km during the last 55 years, i.e. 1935 to 1990, out of which 0.196 sq. km was vacated during the last 13 years i.e. 1977 to 1990. According to the Geological Survey of India, the reason for the glacier's recession could be the ecological imbalance in the area.

(e) A statement is attached:

STATEMENT

(e) The steps taken to protect the ecology of the Gangotri region include:

1. Gangotri National Park is proposed to be set up under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. A Special Area Development Authority has been set up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to check environmental degradation of the Gangotri region.
3. A Master Plan for development of Gangotri region is being prepared which aims at laying special stress on preserving the ecology of the region.
4. Growth of tourism in the region is being discouraged.
5. Moutaineering Expeditions to the Gangotri area by various organisations and individuals are being discouraged.
6. Building activity in the area is being restricted.
7. Ban on commercial felling is being continued.
8. Use of alternate sources of energy is being ecouraged in the area to minimise the use of wood as fuel.

New Ayurvedic Colleges

*304. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open new Ayurvedic Colleges in 1992-93; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Leprosy Patients

*305. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of leprosy patients in the country;

(b) the number of leprosy patients treated and cured during the last three years State-wise;

(c) the number of patients who died during the above pariod;

(d) the percentage of children infected by leprosy; and

(e) the amount allocated for the leprosy eradication programme during 1989-90 and 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) It is estimated that at present there are about 2.5 million leprosy patients in the country.

(b) State-wise number of leprosy patients under treatment and discharged as cured during the last three years (1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91) are give at the statement attached.

(c) No separate figures are maintained for leprosy deaths as hardly any patient dies because of leprosy.

(d) Children belwo age of 14 constitute 15.20 per cent of total number of leprosy patients.

(e) Actual Expenditure incurred under National Leprosy Eradication Programme during 1989-90 and the estimated Expenditure in 1990-91 are as under:-

Year	*Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)*
1989-90	2101.12
1990-91	2306.42